

# City Councilmen Employed 'Moonlighters', Claim



**A SAD MOMENT**—Came for Linda Joy Tasker, 6, of 23509 Pennsylvania Ave. after she started too late in the Easter egg hunt in El Prado Park. Not even her mother's sympathy could quell the flow of tears, but all was well again a few minutes later when someone put some eggs in Linda's basket. The event was sponsored by the Retail Merchants and the Recreation Department.

The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

## TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345      10c PER COPY

VOL. X      1 • 2 •      THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1959      NUMBER 99

# Young Father Jailed for Beating of Baby

## City to Enforce Ban on 'Moonlight' Work

At least two of the councilmen who ordered a ban on "moonlighting" by city employees, have hired off-duty firemen to work for them.

According to information received by the Torrance Press, the city fathers hired the free-enterprising smokeaters to do the work in their homes.

A third member of the City Council, the informant said, employed city employees for part-time work in his business.

The City Council ordered enforcement of its outside job ban for all municipal workers as of yesterday, despite a suit brought by two firemen against City Manager George Stevens.

Chapman L. Bone, assistant city manager, said that while there will be no "anooping," department heads will be charged with the task of preferring disciplinary charges if any of their subordinates work outside their municipal jobs.

Attorney Boris S. Woolley, who said he represents all city employees opposing the "moonlight" ban, announced he will ask the City Council to repeal the ordinance which prohibits outside employment.

## Population Nose Count Starts Today

Recruitment of 110 enumerators for the special Torrance census began Tuesday with arrival here of Vernon L. Miller, supervisor.

City officials confidently expect the nose-count will establish a population over the 100,000 barrier, and a subsequent boost in gas tax and vehicle license funds.

Enumerators, who are paid six cents per name, will be issued red, white and blue identification cards.

They will gather the address of the dwelling, number of persons, sex, age, race and relationship to the head of the household. The information will be kept confidential.

Miller suggested that persons do not expect to be home when the census-taker calls, to leave the information in a sealed envelope with a neighbor.

Actual door-bell ringing begins today and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Census headquarters are in the old city hall at 1511 Cravens Ave.



**CENSUS TAKERS**—Vernon L. Miller, census supervisor, interviews candidates for enumerator jobs whose task it will be to count Torrance's population, estimated at over 100,000. Being interviewed are from left, Ruth Tennis, Thelma Raulston and June Cheatum.

## Beating of Baby Jails Dad

A father who pleaded guilty to inflicting unjustifiable punishment on his three-weeks old baby, was sentenced to 180 days in jail Monday and heard the judge wish he could make the penalty more severe.

Robert Berdette Dare, 22, El Camino College maintenance man, was arrested at his home, 1912 1/2 Gramercy Place, following complaint that his daughter, Victoria, was covered with bruises on her face.

Police said the defendant admitted striking the infant to keep her quiet while he watched a television show Friday night.

His wife, Wilma, said she was in bed at the time and saw the bruised face of her daughter when she fed her at 4 a.m.

The mother said he had also struck their son, Darryl, 18 months, and herself in the past, police reported.

"All I can give you is 180 days in jail. I wish it could be more."

## New City Official on Post

Wade E. Peebles, 38, reported for duty as the city's new director of public works yesterday, relieving John V. Russell, who has held the post for the past two years.



**WADE E. PEEBLES**

Peebles came here from Inglewood where he held the same post for the past seven years. Before that, he was a design engineer for the State Division of Highways.

The official will be in charge of the engineering, street, park, rubbish collection and building departments.

In the meantime City Manager George Stevens is expected to start interviewing candidates for the city engineer's post shortly. An eligibility list has been received from the Civil Service Commission.

The successful candidate will replace Ronald W. Bishop, who last November asked to be relieved of the post and instead take charge of flood control design for the city. In that capacity he will work on approximately \$3,000,000 of storm drain plans the city will need from bond issue projects.

Russell is expected to stay in his office for a short period to assist Peebles in taking over the office. After that he will be assigned as a building inspector for major projects.

## Easter Weekend Marred by Nine Injury Auto Crashes

Nine persons, including two youngsters who received broken legs, were injured in Easter week-end accidents here.

Three persons were taken to Harbor General Hospital following a three-car collision at Crenshaw Blvd. and 253rd St.

They were Beverly Roblynn Tapley, 16, of 2233 W. 230 St., Alvin Ervin Patton, 45, of Los Angeles, both drivers, and Helen Guinan, 54, of 703 Sartori Ave., a passenger, police said.

Four persons were taken to Harbor General Hospital following a two-car crash at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St.

They included the two drivers, Gerald Everett McKenney, 67, of 437 W. Carson St., and Victor H. Banks, 55, of Hawthorne, and two passengers, Josephine McKenney, 60, and Lenore Banks, 49, officers said.

## Tot Dies in Crash of Autos

A four-months-old girl died shortly after she was ejected from her car bed during a collision at Crenshaw and Redondo Beach Blvds. Monday.

The baby, Martha Ruffner, died in Gardena Hospital after she suffered a skull fracture in the crash.

Her mother, Mrs. Antonia Ruffner, 36, of 3206 W. 179th St., was treated for minor injuries. She told California Highway Patrolmen the baby was asleep when the collision occurred.

Officers said the driver of the other car involved in the fatal crash was Judith S. Kraus, 28, of 3746 Redondo Beach Blvd. Her vehicle also struck a truck driven by David Brozden of Los Angeles who was not hurt.

## Kindergarten Roundup at City Schools

Kindergarten round-ups for children who will enter Torrance schools for the first time next fall are scheduled this week and next at five schools—Arlington, Flavian, Hillside, Seaside, and Riviera.

Children who will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 1959, are eligible to enter local kindergartens next fall. When registering the children for fall, parents should bring a birth certificate or other proof of the child's age. Physical exams also will be given to the children.

Sepulveda School's round-up is scheduled today but a doctor will be available again on May 28 and 29.

Hillside also has a round-up scheduled today and next Monday. Seaside School's round-up is set next Tuesday through Friday. Flavian School will have week-long sign-ups, April 6-10 for the physical exams.

Arlington School's round-up is set April 7, 9, and 23.

Further information on these or round-ups at any of the other schools may be obtained from the schools.

## Bus Passengers Seek Damages

Damages of \$27,500 were sought from the city this week by two women passengers in a Torrance Municipal Bus involved in a collision at Crenshaw and Manhattan Beach Blvds., Feb. 26.

The claims were made by Rebecca Vandervalk, of 2915 W. 174 St., and Catherine Vandervalk of Elsinore.

The claimants asserted they were thrown against the bus in the accident.

## Together Not for Economy Run Couple

Togetherness may be fine for home life but not when it comes to participating in the Mobilgas Economy Run.

That seems to be the attitude of Pierce Venable and his wife, Pat, who will both be in the event but in separate cars.

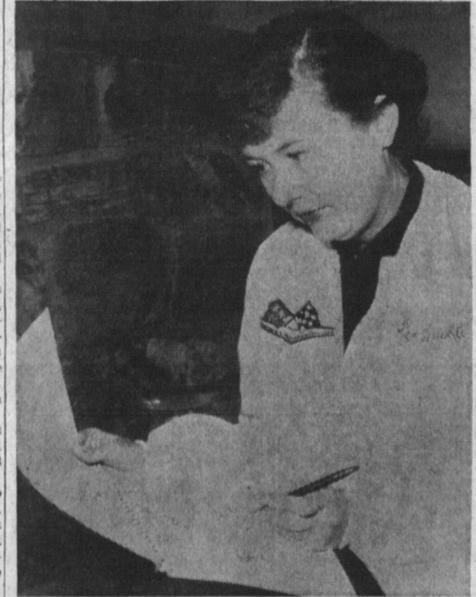
He will drive a Plymouth in an effort to repeat last year's victory in the same car. His wife, a newcomer to the event, will be co-driver in a Chevrolet.

Actually Mrs. Venable has no objection to driving with her husband, but it just so happens that another driver, Mary Hauser of Hollywood, asked her to be her navigator.

Her husband, a sales engineer and seven-year veteran of the event, will have Lou Jabro of Los Angeles as his co-pilot.

The Venables, of 510 Esplanade, Hollywood Riviera, will leave in separate cars Sunday for the 2000-mile trek to Kansas City, Mo.

"I guess it will take a lot of endurance. Driving eight to ten hours a day," explained Mrs. Venable, mother of three children. "But my job will be mostly navigational."



**PLANS STRATEGY**—Mrs. Pat Venable, who will be a co-driver in the Mobilgas Economy run, bones up on navigation for the event which starts Sunday. Her husband, Pierce, will also drive in the event, but the couple will be in separate cars.

## Airport Fire Station Site Approved by City Board

A Fire Department request to relocate the ramshackle Waverly engine house to Torrance Municipal Airport will be recommended to the City Council next week.

The Airport Commission Thursday approved a site on the air field opposite Pacific Coast Hwy. and Newton St. for a dual purpose station as well as land for eventual erection of a drill tower, training yard and engine testing equipment.

Fire Chief J. J. Benner proposed that the airport station have two sections. One, facing east, would house an engine to serve the Waverly and southwest Torrance section, while another one, facing north, would house crash vehicles for airport work.

Cost of the station, which will be requested in the 1959-60 budget, is estimated at \$65,000.

Last week the Waverly Civic Organization asked that the present station receive a "face-lift" but remain in Waverly.

But fire department officials said that since a station is needed at the airport and another one is located at Pacific Coast Highway and Calle Mayor, a third station is not needed.

Fire officials also recommended a station in West Torrance in the near future.

## Chamber Hits Two Measures

The Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has taken a strong stand against two area development bills—one national and one state—according to the Legislative Chairman John Wallace.

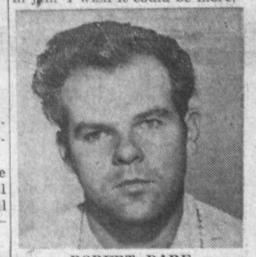
California Senate Bill 43 relating to the establishment of an Economic Development Agency and U.S. Senate Bill 722 calling for backing the same program, under guise of assisting depressed areas, were the bills opposed.

## Torrance Man to Be Installed

Jack Green of Torrance will be installed as second vice commander of the Air Harbor Squadron of the Air Force Association and its auxiliary at a dinner tomorrow in the Cockatoo Restaurant, Hawthorne.

Lt. Cmdr. William Martin, information officer for SAC-MIKE at the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, will address the group on "Strategic Air Command in Ballistic Missiles."

**PRUDENTIAL AGENT**  
John E. Miller, 1228 Arlington Ave., has been appointed agent for the South Bay district agency of Prudential Insurance Co., it was announced yesterday by Harvey L. Harms, manager.



**ROBERT DARE**

declared Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett when he sentenced Dare, Monday.

The burly father, five feet 10 inches tall and weighing 170 pounds, told juvenile officers that he was watching a television program around 11 p.m. and his daughter was crying.

He admitted striking her with a comb on the body but denied any knowledge of how the bruises got on her face.

## Worm Project Hits Bad Snag

Nature-loving third graders in Mrs. Fern Dooley's class at Crenshaw School would give a lot to be able to "go around a mulberry tree"—and so would a bunch of hungry silkworms.

Class members have been "beating the bushes" lately to find a mulberry tree. The group is studying animals and when their teacher was given some silkworm eggs, they eagerly awaited the day when the eggs would hatch.

The catch is that silkworms will grow only if they have plenty of mulberry leaves to eat. To date, the class has been unable to locate a mulberry tree. Anybody who can help the class—and the silkworms—can call the school.

## LATE NEWS

**BOY BADLY HURT**  
Robert Bonham, 11, of 221 Via Buena Ventura, is in critical condition at Torrance Memorial Hospital, after his skate board collided with an auto near his home yesterday morning. Police said the boy suffered a possible skull fracture and was unconscious.

**POKER LOSSES**  
Robert E. Sapp, 32, of 4623 Merrill St., was arraigned on check charges yesterday after he told Det. Sgt. Mickey Fischer that he lost between \$6000 and \$7000 in Gardena poker parlors. The suspect is accused of passing at least \$400 of checks with insufficient funds.

## OPPOSE COLLEGE

Torrance councilmen will seek ways to oppose the expansion of El Camino College on a 14-acre site on Redondo Beach Blvd. among the most valuable in the city, and if taken over by the college, would result in loss of future revenue.

## SAFETY COUNCIL

A pitch by Mayor Albert Ison for the reactivation of a Torrance Citizens Safety Council to combat increasing traffic danger, was tabled for further study Tuesday night.

## New Press Service

Beginning today, residents within the Torrance Press circulation area who have not received their copy by 2 p.m. on Thursdays, will be assured of delivery if they call in their request by 4 p.m.

This is in line with the policy of delivering this newspaper to all homes in the circulation area regardless of whether the carrier boy is paid for his delivery.

However, it is pointed out that the carrier boy's income depends to a great extent on the collections he makes on his route. The nominal charge of 25 cents per month is made if the Torrance Press is delivered on Thursday only. Boys will collect 45 cents if delivery is made both on Thursdays and Sundays.

All persons who reside in Torrance will be guaranteed twice a week delivery if they pay 45 cents to the carrier.

These boys are independent young businessmen who are building character as well as earning money by working their routes.

Be sure to demand a receipt whenever the boy calls to collect for the preceding month. Collections for March are now under way.